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Director of Central Intelligence

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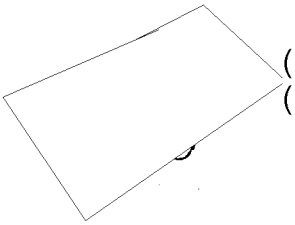

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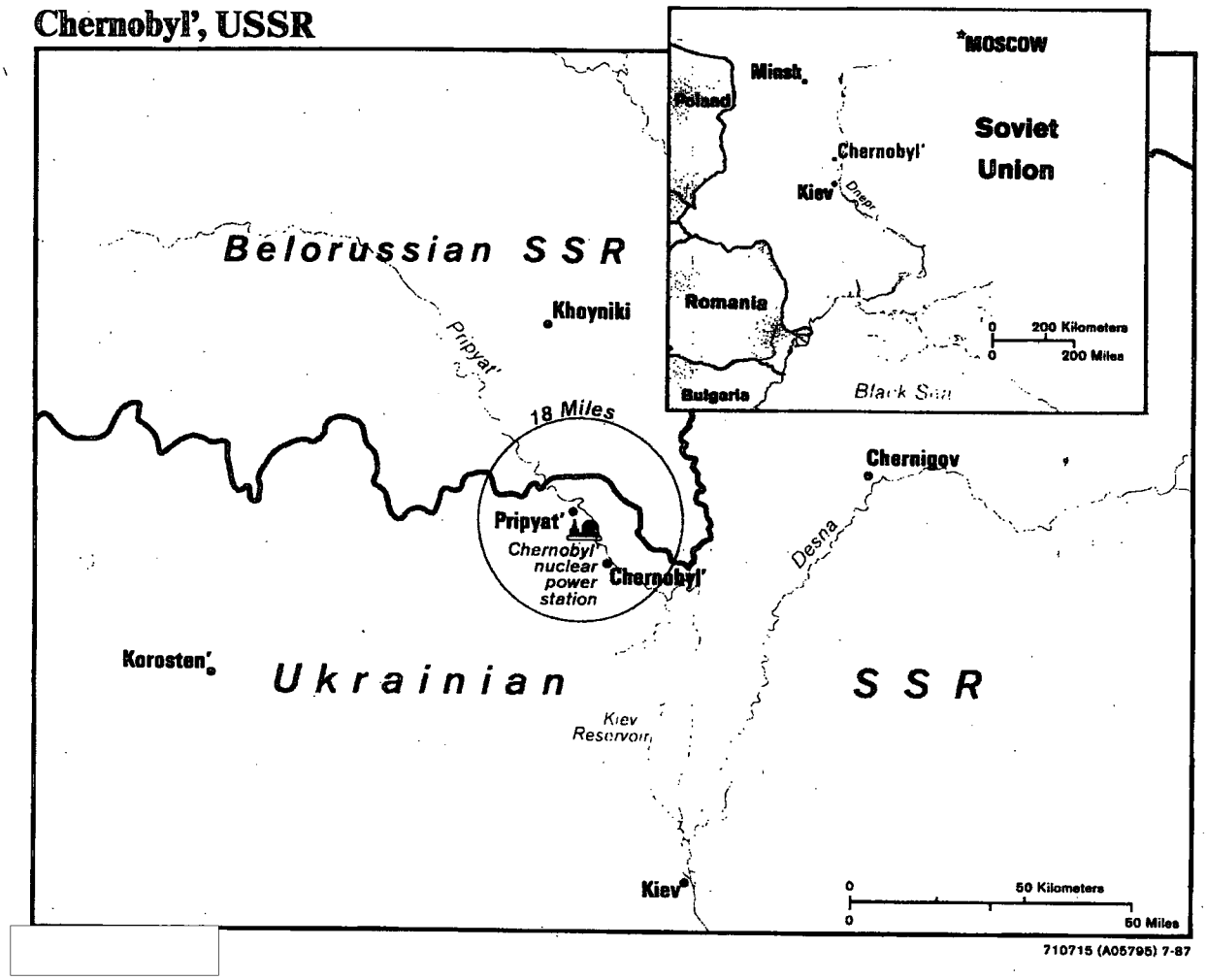

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Chernobyl's Slow Recovery

More than 20,000 people, mostly army reservists, are working in the 18-mile evacuation zone under difficult and often dangerous conditions. In addition to decontamination work, the military is responsible for construction and road building. The workers do not live in the zone but in a hastily constructed settlement on its border.

Only 300 of the 92,000 evacuees have been permitted to return to two of the decontaminated villages in the evacuation zone. A local official told a Western reporter that plans to decontaminate many other settlements have been abandoned. [redacted] Pripyat, the town that housed nearly 50,000 plant workers and their families, is completely uninhabited. Large areas of the town are being used to store contaminated cars and other machinery. (b)(1) (b)(3)

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Special Analysis

USSR: **Chernobyl' Trial Could Backfire on Moscow**

The trial of the three plant managers that begins tomorrow reportedly will include Western journalists and is likely to refocus critical world and domestic attention on the Soviets' handling of the accident. [redacted] (b)(3)

A handful of Western journalists who visited the zone for the first time last month reported a much grimmer situation than that portrayed in regime statements. Even Soviet reporters have complained that authorities are tightly controlling information on Chernobyl'; they too may file critical coverage, in the spirit of *glasnost*. [redacted] (b)(3)

Rather than enable the regime to close the book on the accident, the trial may create pressure for more trials and information on long-term consequences of the accident. Recently published letters from Chernobyl' workers demanded an investigation of city officials in Kiev and Pripyat' for criminal negligence. The accused probably will receive stiff sentences, but the public is unlikely to accept they are the only ones to blame. [redacted] (b)(3)

The trial may also feed domestic concerns about the safety of the Soviet nuclear industry and encourage distrust of bureaucrats. A Belorussian writer called for more openness and local public control over decisions on nuclear power. A petition by some 60 Ukrainian scientists opposing the completion of units 5 and 6 at Chernobyl' was about to be published when Moscow decided to shelve the expansion plans. [redacted] (b)(3)

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